



Parent-Teen Training Aide



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GETTING STARTED

A Note To Parents/Guardians*

As you probably know, teenage drivers get more tickets and are hurt and killed in greater numbers than other drivers. To decrease these accidents, a special “Provisional” type of license and instruction permit is being issued to new drivers under the age of 18. Minors may keep their license as long as they obey certain “provisions.” They must obey the traffic laws and drive without an accident. They must hold their permit longer (one month and at least six months starting July 1, 1998) and practice the driving skills listed on pages 7 and 8 of this handbook before they come to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) for their driving test.

The *California Driver Handbook* **contains all of the requirements** your teenager must meet to qualify for a license. This handbook was developed to aid you, the parent, in providing your teenager with additional driving practice and **DOES NOT contain all of the licensing requirements** needed at a DMV office to obtain a permit or license.

Remind your young driver that driving is a privilege that can be taken away if he or she violates traffic laws or causes accidents.

If your teenager fails the law test, he or she must wait one week before retaking the test. If the driving test is failed, he or she must wait two weeks before taking another. Encourage your teenager to be thoroughly prepared before attempting either test. You can avoid return trips to the office if your teenager passes the test the first time.

You must help your student driver practice all of the driving skills listed on pages 7 and 8. These skills are divided into four different levels. If you choose to let your teenager get additional training from a driving school, make sure the school is licensed by DMV. Whoever gives the instruction must sign the statement on the back of your teenager's permit certifying that he or she has completed the supervised training. This statement must be completed and returned to DMV before the driving test may be taken.

Professional driving schools and instructors in California are licensed by the DMV after meeting rigid qualifying standards. Schools must carry liability insurance, be bonded, and maintain complete records for DMV inspection. Cars are subject to inspection every six months. Instructors must pass a qualifying examination, both written and driving, every four years, or show proof of continuing education in the traffic safety field. If you use the services of a professional driving school, ask to see the instructor's identification card.

*Please consider the words “parent” and “guardian” interchangeable in this booklet.

This parent handbook will help you begin driving practice with your son or daughter. Only instruction and lots of practice will make your student a good driver. Driver training in school is important, but the hours you spend with your teenager behind the wheel should give your young driver very important additional experience.

During the summer months, daylight hours sometimes extend until 9:30 p.m. Schedule your practice sessions so that your student driver will have enough experience driving when it is dark and in different types of weather conditions. (The student must have at least 10 hours of night driving practice before taking a driving test. This requirement starts July 1, 1998.)

Please take the time to familiarize yourself with everything in the *California Driver Handbook* before you begin the sessions. Remember that your student has been studying that book in school and DMV conducts the driving test based on the handbook. If you tell him or her to do something one way, and the handbook says to do it another way, you should have a strong justification for what you teach.

Remember, as a parent you must be concerned with your teenager's safety. If you feel that your son or daughter is driving dangerously or irresponsibly, you may cancel the instruction permit or license at any time by completing a Request For Cancellation or Surrender of a Driver License or Identification Card, form DL 142, at any DMV office.

You're The Teacher's Aide, But!

Remember, what you teach your teenager should agree with what is taught by the driving instructor. If you teach something differently than the instructor, your teenager will be very confused and have a more difficult time learning to drive. If your teenager insists that your instructions are different from the teacher's, contact the teacher to be sure you are correct. **For your student's sake, please do not teach shortcuts or improper procedures.**

How To Use This Handbook

1. Please read pages 1 to 8 of this booklet before you begin the driving practice.
2. A suggested lesson plan on pages 7 and 8 lists the driving skills that should be practiced.
3. Read the directions for the skill you wish to practice.
4. Discuss the directions with your student.
5. Show your teenager how to do the skill (like backing up) by doing it correctly yourself.
6. Have your son or daughter practice the skill.
7. Check the directions in the book to be sure the skill is done correctly.
8. Make sure your new driver *always* does the starred (*) steps when practicing. These starred items are very important because doing them prevents accidents.
9. When you feel that your student does a certain skill easily and well, double-check the directions. Make sure your teen is doing the starred steps.
10. A special section near the end of this booklet (pp. 21-25) gives advice on special driving problems and emergency situations. *Please discuss each section with your youngster.* Your teenager may not remember *all* the advice given, but may remember *enough* to avoid an accident.
11. At the end of this book is a driving checklist. When you feel your young driver is ready for licensing, take him or her on a special test drive. Make sure that your student does all the things on this list correctly. Practice more with your son or daughter on any item missed.
12. Before your teenager takes the driving test, read “Is Your Teenager Ready for a License” on page 8. You may still have overlooked some important practice your new driver needs.

Be A Good Model

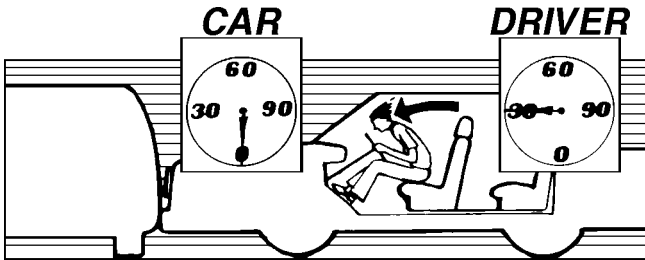
Children of every age often imitate their parents' behavior. Set a good example whenever you drive. Obey all traffic laws. Be courteous. Drive safely. Your teenager may follow your example. It's very important for your teenager's safety that you:

Don't drive after drinking. Young people are more likely to drink and drive if they see their parents do so.

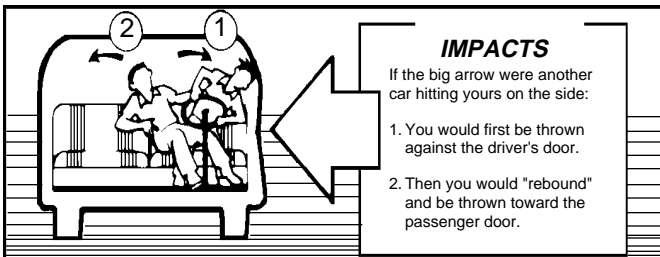
Use safety belts. They are required by law to be worn in 1968 and newer automobiles and 1972 and newer model trucks (weighing less than 6,001 pounds) and housecars. He or she will usually adopt your good habits, like wearing safety belts. No matter how short the trip may be, encourage your new driver to wear a safety belt. Teach your student to fasten the belt *before* starting the engine. If *you* wear a safety belt each time you get into the car, your teenager may do the same. You must wear both your lap and shoulder belt if the vehicle is equipped with both and if the vehicle is equipped with air bags.

NOTE: A seat belt is required for each person who is age four or older and weighs over 40 lbs. If a child is over four years of age but under 40 lbs., the driver of the vehicle must put the child in an approved safety seat.

The pictures below illustrate what can happen in an accident.



Your car stops, but you keep going at the same speed you were traveling until you hit the dashboard or windshield. At thirty miles per hour, this is like falling to the ground from the top of a three story building.



If you were struck from the side, the impact could push you back and forth across the seat. Wearing safety belts can keep you in a position to control the car.

Warning: The use of seat belts reduces the chance of being thrown from your vehicle in case of an accident. If you don't install and use a shoulder harness with the lap belt, serious or fatal injuries may happen in some crashes. Lap-only belts increase the chance of spinal column and abdominal injuries—especially in children. Shoulder harnesses may be available for your vehicle, if it is not already equipped with them.

Let's Talk About Alcohol And Drugs

Driving gives most teenagers a feeling of freedom and independence. At a time when they are gaining independence, they may have their first encounter with alcohol and/or drugs. Mixing alcohol and/or drugs with driving increases the risk of accidents and death. This is especially true at night. Sometimes, after drinking, teenagers imitate a friend's bad driving habits. They speed or attempt dare-devil stunts. Often young people cannot afford to keep a car in safe mechanical condition, even though driving an unsafe car is illegal. Bald tires and poor brakes add to the problem of drinking and driving.

Talk to your teenager about drinking and driving. Let your driver know how you feel about drinking or using drugs and what you expect from *him* or *her*. It may help to know some of the facts found in a nationwide survey.

- Young drivers expect and want their parents to talk to them about drinking and driving.
- Teenagers said drinking occurred in a variety of places, most frequently at a friend's home. Drinking also occurred at parks, beaches, bars or drive-in movies. Drinking was even done in their own home.

Every family handles issues like alcohol and drugs in its own way. *Discuss with your son or daughter what you think he or she should do in the following situations:*

- Being driven home from a party by a friend who arrived sober, but who now appears under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.
- A date becomes intoxicated at a party and insists he or she is sober enough to drive.
- Riding in a car with older teenagers when one of them is using drugs and offers it to your teen.

- You have forbidden your son or daughter to use alcohol, but he or she has gone to a party where wine was served, and is now feeling a little “strange” It’s getting late. Your teenager is afraid to drive home, but does not know if you should be called.

When You And Your Student Start Practicing

- Review your student's instruction permit. It may contain additional instructions
- Take this handbook along.
- At first, practice only during the day.
- Do not hold practice sessions in bad weather until the student has completed in-car instruction in school.
- Before starting the engine, have your new driver:
 - adjust the seat if necessary.
 - make sure mirrors are adjusted.
 - fasten the safety belt.
- Practice in a quiet area during the first lesson or two.
- Be familiar with the practice area and any hazards, signs, or signals.
- Be patient, sympathetic, and understanding.
- Keep your voice calm.
- Stop practicing when your teenager becomes tired or upset.
- Sit in a position where you can grab the steering wheel or step on the brake, if necessary.
- **Before turning off the ignition during an emergency in a moving vehicle**, consider that this will lock the steering wheel on many vehicles and affects power steering and power brakes.
- If you see a bad traffic situation ahead (one your student can’t handle), pull over and stop.

Until your student has learned the traffic rules and how to control the car, practice in a vehicle with an automatic transmission, if possible, because it is easier to drive.

Giving Directions During Practice

Give directions in a clear, calm voice well in advance. Allow your student enough time to follow them.

1. Tell your new driver *where* you want something done before you say what you want done. For example, you should say, “At the next corner, turn right.” If you say, “turn right,” your teenager may react before you’ve completed your instructions. You may confuse your over eager student.
2. When answering questions, do not use the word *right*, use the word *correct*. The word *right* may be mistaken as a direction for a turn rather than an answer to a question.

3. Avoid using the word *stop* because it often panics a beginning driver. Say instead, "Bring your car to a stop."

Lesson Plan For Practice Sessions

Level I

Your teenager should practice controlling the car during the first lessons. No time plan is given here. However, starting July 1, 1998, your student must complete 50 hours of supervised practice (10 hours at night). These driving sessions should give your student practice in the basic skills listed below. You will be asked to certify to this training before your student is licensed. Next to each skill is the page number for directions about that skill.

1. Driving a "Stick" (pg. 9). (An automatic transmission is recommended because it is easier to operate.)
2. Backing the Car (pg.10)
3. Right Turns (pg. 11)
4. Left Turns (pg. 12)

Level II

Only after your teenager can shift gears (if necessary in your car), backup, and turn easily and safely should you begin practicing the skills listed below.

1. Intersections (pg. 13)
2. Lane Changes (pg. 14)
3. Keeping Space Around the Car (pg. 14-16)
4. Practicing in Traffic (pg. 16)

Level III

The skills listed below can be practiced after the Level I and Level II skills are mastered.

1. Hill Parking (pg. 16)
2. Parallel Parking (pg. 17)
3. U-Turn (pg. 18)
4. Three-Point Turn (pg. 18)

Level IV

Night driving and freeway driving should only be practiced *after* the student has mastered the skills in Level I, II, and III. You must be sure that your teenager can control the car *very* well before you practice driving at night or on the freeway. The student must practice at least 10 hours at night starting July 1, 1998.

1. Freeway Driving (pg. 19)
2. Night Driving (pg. 20)
3. Special Problems and Emergencies (pg. 21-25)

Take A Check Ride

When your teenager has finished practicing the skills in Level IV, look at the Safe Driver Checklist on pages 26-27. Read the directions. Make sure you and your student go on the “test ride” described. This test ride should show you if your new driver needs more practice.

Is Your Teenager Ready For A License?

When your teenager drives well enough to pass the DMV driving test for a provisional license, ask yourself the questions below. You may have overlooked some practice or knowledge your youngster needs.

1. Have we discussed alcohol, drugs, and driving? (See page 5.)
2. Does my son or daughter know what to do if he or she has been drinking and feels it's unsafe to drive?
3. Have we practiced in *heavy* city traffic?
4. Have we practiced on one-way streets and at intersections with three-way signals?
5. Have we practiced using a left-turn center lane?
6. Have we practiced on small country roads, on graveled roads with potholes, and on hills?
7. Have we practiced in bad weather?
8. Have we practiced at night?
9. Have we discussed what to do if an emergency occurs? (See pages 21 to 25.)
10. Have we discussed what to do if an accident occurs?
11. Does my teenager know *I* can cancel his or her license at any time, for any reason *I feel* is valid? Does my young driver know *I will* cancel the license if he or she drives irresponsibly or violates traffic laws?

When you are sure your teenager is ready for a license, sign the certifying line of his or her instruction permit. Remember, the teenager must have the permit for 30 days from the day it is issued (not less than six months starting July 1, 1998) before DMV will allow a driving test. (The waiting period is mandatory even though your teenager has already practiced the driving skills listed on pages 7 and 8.) The student is then ready to take a driving test with a DMV Examiner. (But the student must not drive to the DMV office alone.)

DRIVING SKILLS

Signaling To Other Drivers

Teach your student how to signal for left and right turns, slow down and stop. Have your student demonstrate arm signals and electric turn signals as shown in the diagram. During the driving test, your student must use the vehicles turn signal lights. (When your teenager is driving, signals for left or right turns must be given during the last 100 feet before reaching the turning point.) At highway speeds, it is best to signal at least five seconds before lane changes are made.

Driving A “Stick”

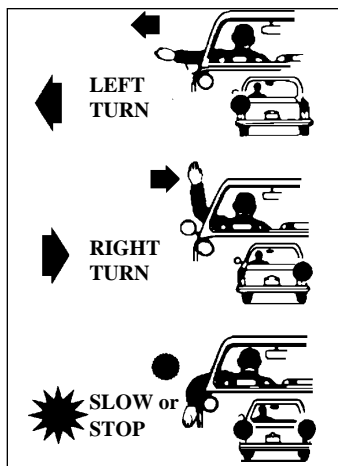
A car with an automatic transmission is recommended because it is easier to operate. A beginning driver is going to have difficulty using the clutch, brake, gas, and gear shift lever at the same time. The student may also forget where his or her foot is placed, and press the wrong pedal by mistake. If your teenager has problems shifting, practice the steps below without releasing the parking brake. With the ignition off, have your student:

1. Depress clutch pedal to the floor. Hold it there.
2. Practice shifting through all the gears.
3. Practice until shifting is automatic.
4. Practice pressing down the clutch pedal and shifting to a gear you have chosen.

After shifting has become easy, have the student practice shifting in and out of first gear when stopping and starting. Directions follow:

Shifting into First Gear

1. Place gearshift in neutral.
2. With clutch firmly depressed and foot on brake pedal, start engine.
3. Release the parking brake.
4. Move the gearshift lever from neutral to first.
5. Let the clutch come up very slowly until it reaches the point at which the engine takes hold and begins to pull the car forward.
6. Move foot from the brake to the gas pedal and press down gently.
7. Slowly let the clutch pedal come up all the way.



Backing The Car

Practice on a wide residential street with little or no traffic, or in parking lots with no obstacles or vehicles. If your teenager seems to have problems backing, have him or her follow the directions below:

1. Put left hand at top of the steering wheel.
2. Place foot on brake.
3. Shift to reverse.
- * 4. Check for traffic in all directions.
5. Release parking brake.
- * 6. Place right hand on the back of the seat and look over right shoulder through the rear window.
7. Release the foot brake slowly. Apply accelerator if needed and be ready to brake to control the speed of the car.
8. Occasionally look quickly to your left.
9. Move slowly and avoid sudden movement of the steering wheel.
10. Turn wheel to the right if you wish to back to the right. Turn wheel to the left if you wish to back to the left.
11. Press brake gently to stop.
12. Shift to park.

Practicing Turns

Practice turning in a large, open parking lot, or other area without traffic or pedestrians.

The first few times, give directions on steering throughout the turn.

Be ready to grab the wheel.

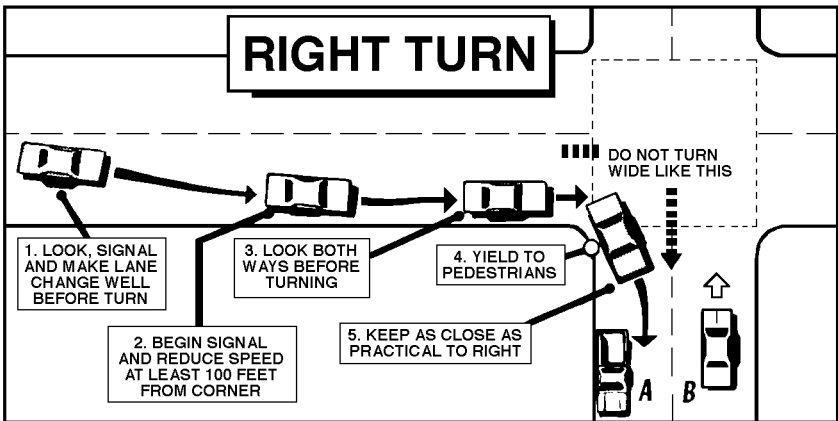
Practice right turns first.

*This step is especially important to avoid accidents.

Right Turns

Give the instruction to turn at least 200 feet (over 1/2 city block) before turning. This will allow the student enough time to signal and turn. Approach the turn in the right lane, turn into the right lane, and remain in the lane until the turn is completed. If your teenager has difficulty learning to turn right, try the following step-by-step instructions.

1. Slow down as you approach the turn.
2. Give right turn signal.
- * 3. Check traffic ahead, to the sides, and behind. At the intersection, look left, right, left. If you are merging into a bike lane, look over your right shoulder before merging.
4. Obey all the signs or traffic signals.
5. Yield to pedestrians.
6. If possible, place the front of your car two or three feet from the curb before beginning the turn.
7. Steer hand-over-hand to the right when the front bumper enters the intersection.
- * 8. End the turn in lane A, without entering lane B. (See picture below.)
9. Unwind the steering wheel as the front end of the car enters the proper lane, and then straighten the car in the lane.

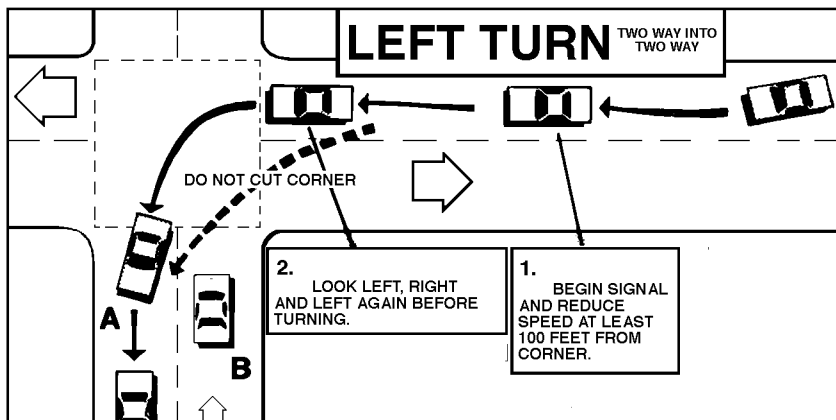


*This step is especially important to avoid accidents.

Left Turns

Practice left turns *after* your teenager can handle a right turn well. If your teenager has difficulty making left turns correctly, follow the steps below.

1. Slow down when approaching the turn.
2. Obey the signs or traffic signal.
- * 3. Check traffic to the left, right, front and rear.
4. Yield to pedestrians.
5. Give a left signal as soon as possible without confusing other drivers.
6. Glance over left shoulder.
7. Put the car in the left turn lane, in the left part of the lane, or the left turn center lane.
8. Slow to a safe speed.
9. Glance left, ahead, right, and left again.
- *10. Never turn the wheel until *you* are ready to make your left turn.
11. Glance left and turn wheel to the left to enter the new street.
12. Glance right, and if you can make the left turn without stopping first, **place your foot over the brake pedal** (without pressing down) while turning.
13. Press the gas pedal as you allow wheel to straighten in the new street.
- *14. End the turn in lane A, without crossing lane B. (See picture below.)



*This step is especially important to avoid accidents.

Intersections

When you feel your teenager is ready to begin driving through intersections, discuss the following step-by-step directions with your student. Directions are given below for *signal-controlled* intersections, and for intersections that are *uncontrolled* or “*blind*.”

Directions for signal controlled intersections:

- * 1. When approaching an intersection with a signal light, even if the light is green, be ready to brake and keep plenty of room between your car and the car ahead. **Do not enter an intersection, even when the light is green, unless there is enough space to completely cross before the light turns red.** If heavy traffic causes you to block cross traffic, you can be cited.
- * 2. Look left, right, and left again for cars on the cross street before entering the intersection.
- 3. Check for pedestrians and yield if necessary.
- 4. Watch oncoming traffic for any cars making illegal left turns.

When the light turns yellow:

Teach your student how to decide when it is safe to stop on a yellow light. As the student approaches the green light, have him or her tell you, at regular intervals, whether it would be safe to proceed if the light were to turn yellow. Continue until the student reaches the point at which he or she feels unable to safely stop for a yellow light. You should make certain that the student consistently identifies the point at which a safe stop could be made.

Directions for *uncontrolled* (no signs or signals) and *blind intersections*:

When you approach an intersection and cannot see traffic on the cross street for at least 100 feet in each direction during the last 100 feet before crossing (because a building or other object blocks your view), slow to 15 miles per hour. This is a *blind* intersection.

- 1. Look for approaching cars on side streets.
- 2. Look for pedestrians and cross traffic.
- * 3. Slow to a speed which will let you stop safely if you have to.
- * 4. Look left, right and left again for traffic on the cross street before entering the intersection.
- 5. While entering the intersection, look right and ahead for approaching traffic.
- 6. If the road is clear, cross the intersection.

*This step is especially important to avoid accidents.

Lane Changes

You may discover your teenager has difficulty changing lanes in a smooth, continuous movement. Follow the steps below to make sure that a lane change is made safely.

1. Check the traffic ahead.
2. Glance in mirrors for breaks in the traffic.
- * 3. Check blind spot by looking over your shoulder into the lane you wish to occupy.
- * 4. Signal. Check mirror and look over shoulder again to make sure space is empty.
5. Change lanes by moving into break in traffic flow.
6. Steer to center the car in the lane.
7. Turn off signal.

Problems to watch for:

1. Failing to check rear view mirror.
2. Failing to look over shoulder.
3. Checking over shoulder too long while the car drifts from its path or gets dangerously close to vehicles ahead.
4. Not knowing if there is enough room to change lanes. At first, you should make the judgment for the student. When the student is able to look over his or her shoulder and still stay in the lane, have the student tell you when it is safe to change lanes until you have said whether you agree (okay), or disagree (no) with his or her decision.

Keeping Space Around The Car

Most drivers don't see as well as they should because they follow too closely, and the car ahead blocks their view of the road.

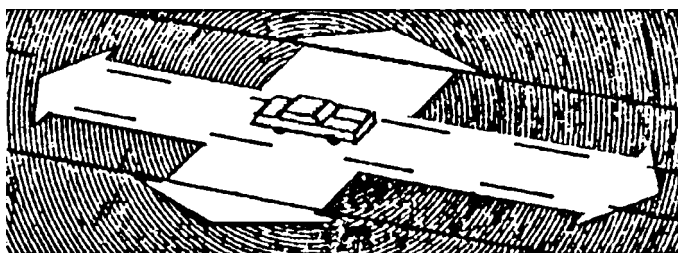
Good drivers maintain a safe following distance so they can see better. The more space they allow between their car and the car ahead, the more time they will have to see a hazard or accident down the road. They will have more time to stop, or to avoid the problem.

Encourage your teenager to keep enough distance between his or her car and the car ahead. Your student will then have a "bigger picture" of what lies down the road and steering will be easier. The car can travel in the center of the lane instead of hugging one side or the other.

*This step is especially important to avoid accidents.

Teach your new driver how to keep at least a three second “cushion” of space when following other vehicles. When the vehicle ahead passes a signpost or other object near the road, count “one thousand one, one thousand two, one thousand three.” If you pass the same object before completing this count, you are too close. Allow more room.

Tell your student to keep a cushion of space around the car. The white area in the picture below illustrates roughly the area around the car that should be empty space whenever possible.



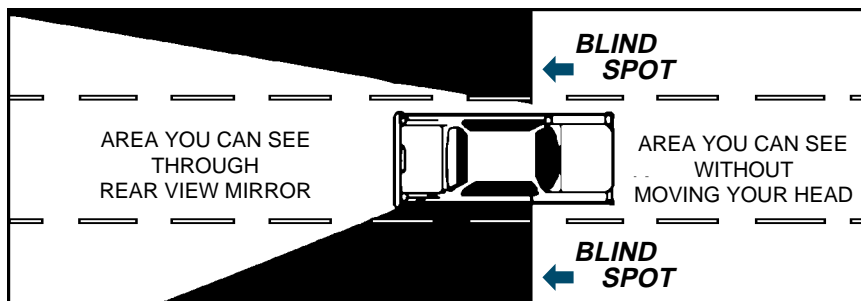
When *crowded by a tailgater*, your teenager should allow extra room between his or her car and the car ahead. If someone is following too closely, change lanes and let the tailgater pass. Tell your student to open up more following distance from the car ahead. This gives him or her and the tailgater more time to react in an emergency. When the way is clear for a safe pass, the student can slow down so the tailgater can pass. Discuss with your student how to change lanes, “flash” the brake lights, or pull off the road when safe.

When you follow too closely and another driver “cuts” in front of you, the normal reaction is to slam on your brakes and swerve out of the way. Swerving out of the way most often results in cutting someone else off or possibly driving off the roadway. It might also result in the car behind you crashing into you or other cars around you.

If another driver “cuts” in front of you, it is better if you just “take your foot off the gas.” This will give you space between your car and the other driver without swerving into another lane. Don’t overreact if you are cut off. Plan your emergency escape route before the emergency happens.

School buses and large trucks transporting hazardous loads must stop at railroad crossings. Expect the stops; slow down early to allow plenty of room.

Tell your student to *avoid driving in the blind spot of other drivers*. The other driver may not see your teenager’s car and could change lanes, colliding with your son or daughter. The picture on the next page shows the location of these blind spots.



Practicing In Traffic

1. Make sure your student driver signals when necessary. Discuss why it is important for other drivers to know what your student intends to do.
2. See that your student driver slows down or speeds up when necessary.
- * 3. Encourage your student driver to keep a “cushion” of empty space around the car. Discuss the importance of staying a *safe* distance behind the car ahead.
4. Describe how to be a courteous driver, yielding space to drivers trying to change lanes, etc.
5. When you first begin practicing in traffic, point out hazards and warn your teenager until he or she becomes comfortable in the new situation.
- * 6. Make sure all traffic lights and stop signs are obeyed. Warn your student if the car is not slowing down when it should.

Hill Parking

Practice parking on hills with little or no traffic. At first park in areas without other parked cars. Some areas of California have no hills. If you are unable to practice hill parking in your area, at least discuss the procedures. Make sure that your student driver will be able to safely park on a hill in the future.

Parking Downhill (If there is no hill, practice on a flat road anyway.)

1. Stop your car about six to eight inches from the curb.
2. Shift to neutral and allow the car to roll forward slowly, controlling speed with brake.
3. As the car moves, quickly turn the steering wheel toward the curb.
- * 4. Stop when the front right wheel touches the curb, or when the wheel is four to six inches on the shoulder.
- * 5. Set the parking brake, shift to park, and release the foot brake.
- * 6. Shut off engine.

*This step is especially important to avoid accidents.

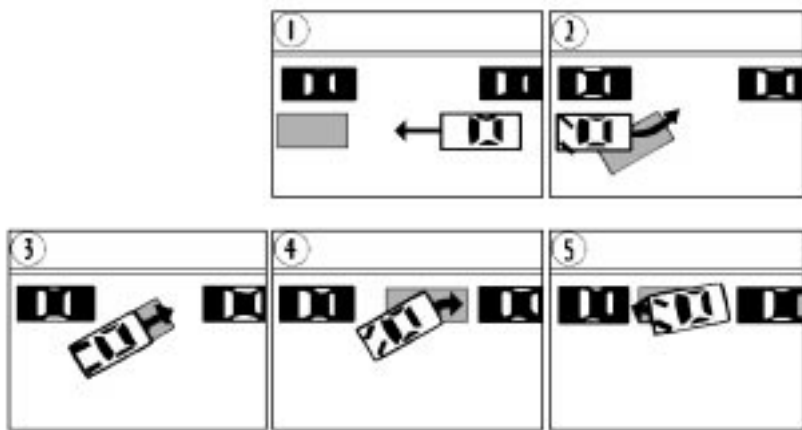
Parking Uphill With a Curb (If there is no hill, practice on a flat road anyway.)

1. Stop the car about six to eight inches from the curb.
 2. Shift to neutral and let up a little on the brake. At the same time, turn the steering wheel away from the curb. Allow the car to roll backward slowly, controlling speed with brake.
- * 3. Stop when the back part of the front right tire touches the curb.
- * 4. Set the parking brake, shift to park.
- * 5. Shut off engine.

Parallel Parking (Street With Two-Way Traffic)

At first, practice parallel parking in a large, open parking lot. Later practice on a quiet, residential street until your student is capable of practicing in normal traffic. Directions for parallel parking are given below.

1. Check traffic and give signal. Pull up about two feet away from, and parallel to, the car ahead of the space in which you wish to park (rears of cars must be even).
2. Check traffic and shift to reverse. Turn steering wheel sharply to the right while backing.
3. As your front door passes the back bumper of the car ahead, quickly straighten the wheels and continue to back straight.
4. When clear of the car ahead, turn wheels sharply to the left and back slowly toward the car behind.
5. Shift to drive. Turn wheels sharply to the right and pull toward center of parking space. The wheels should not be more than one foot from the curb.
6. Shut off engine.
7. Set parking brake.



*This step is especially important to avoid accidents.

U-Turn

- Practice U-turns on a wide, residential street with little or no traffic. Do not make a U-turn in heavy traffic.
- During the first practice session, act as the student's eyes while your teenager concentrates on making the turn.
- *• When your new driver can make the turn easily, encourage him or her to look in all directions for traffic before turning and while making the turn. (If you are near an intersection, a car can come around the corner in just a few seconds.)

Three Point Turn

A "three point turn" or "turnabout" is the method you use to turn the car around when you are on a narrow, dead-end street with no driveways. Directions for making a three point turn are given below. Please practice on a narrow street. *Make sure your teenager looks over his or her right shoulder while backing during the turn. Look over left shoulder to check blind spot.*

1. Signal, check traffic to the rear, then come to a complete stop next to the right curb.
- *2. *Check traffic in both directions and then signal for a left turn. Look over left shoulder to check blind spot.*

Point 1

3. When the way is clear, move the car forward slowly and at the same time, turn the steering wheel rapidly to the left.
4. When the car is about four to five feet from the curb, brake gently and quickly. Straighten the steering wheel by turning it to the right. Stop before the front wheel or bumper touches the curb.

Point 2

- *5. Shift into reverse and *check traffic all around.*
- *6. Back up slowly toward the opposite curb, while turning the steering wheel rapidly to the right. *Look over right shoulder when backing.*
7. When the car is four to five feet from the curb behind, brake gently and straighten the steering wheel rapidly.
8. Come to a stop near the curb.

Point 3

9. With foot on the brake, shift to drive.
- *10. Check for traffic again and then move forward into your proper lane.

*This step is especially important to avoid accidents.

Freeway Driving

When your student is ready for freeway driving, try to choose long on-ramps and off-ramps to practice entering and exiting the freeway. Below are directions for freeway driving.

Entering the Freeway

1. Be in the proper lane for the on-ramp you want.
- *2. While still on the ramp, check your mirror. Watch traffic in the lane you will be entering. **Remember—you do not have the right of way.**
- *3. Look for a gap in the traffic. Adjust your speed to match that of cars on the freeway.
- *4. When you reach the freeway, look over your shoulder before moving into a gap in the first lane.

On the Freeway

1. Keep up with traffic as much as possible *without* exceeding the speed limit.
- *2. Maintain a proper following distance. Use the three second rule described on page 15.
- *3. Watch for merging traffic at on-ramps.
- *4. Look over your shoulder before changing lanes.
- *5. If you see traffic slowing ahead, “tap” your brake pedal several times to warn drivers behind you. Do this even though you don’t need to brake yet. This “tapping” will warn drivers behind you to slow down. They won’t need to “hit the brakes” at the last minute.

Leaving the Freeway

1. Move into the proper exit lane at least one-half mile before the exit. **Do not wait until the last minute.** You may cause an accident if you change lanes in a hurry.
2. Signal four or five seconds before the off-ramp.
3. After entering the off-ramp, slow to the posted speed limit.

*This step is especially important to avoid accidents.

Driving At Night

DO NOT START night driving until your student driver has mastered all driving skills during daylight. Begin night driving in a familiar, low traffic area. Below are the directions for driving at night.

1. Turn headlights on when darkness makes it harder to see (no later than one-half hour after sunset). It is illegal to use parking lights rather than headlights.
- * 2. Drive more slowly. The student should be able to stop the car within the distance that he or she can see ahead.
- * 3. Increase following distance.
4. Signal well in advance of every move.
- * 5. Avoid looking into the headlights of an oncoming car. Look away, to the right edge of the road. The student must learn to maintain the car's direction of travel when the headlights of oncoming traffic make it hard to see. If your youngster has difficulty doing this, perhaps an eye examination is needed.
6. Practice at least 10 hours of night driving (starting, July 1, 1998)

*This step is especially important to avoid accidents.

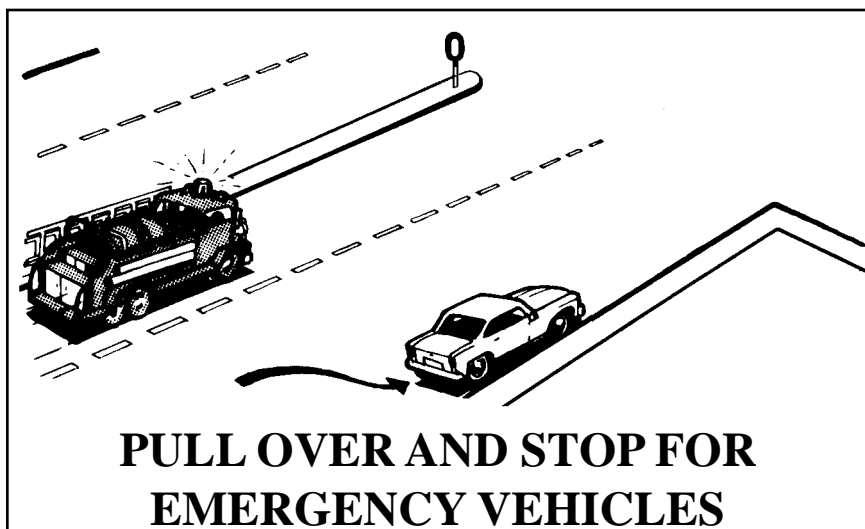
SPECIAL PROBLEMS AND EMERGENCIES

What To Do If An Accident Occurs

Talk about accidents with your student driver. Whether your teenager has an accident, or sees one, certain things should be done. These things are listed in the *California Driver Handbook*. Please discuss this information with your teenager. Make sure your student knows what to do if an accident happens.

When You Hear A Siren

Tell your new driver what to do when a fire truck, ambulance, or other emergency vehicle approaches from behind. When drivers hear the siren of an emergency vehicle they **must** pull over as far as practical to the right side of the road and **stop** until the emergency vehicle passes. **However, never stop in an intersection.** Continue through the intersection and then pull to the right as soon as you can. Sometimes the driver of an emergency vehicle will use a loudspeaker to direct a driver blocking the road.



When You Can't See Because of Fog, Rain, or Snow

Fog: The best advice for driving in the fog is “DON’T.” You should consider postponing your trip until the fog clears. If you must drive, then slow down and turn on your low-beam headlights. Never drive with just your parking or fog lights. Increase your following distance and be prepared to stop within the space you can see in front of your vehicle. Avoid crossing or passing lanes of traffic unless absolutely necessary. Listen for traffic you cannot see. Use your wipers and defroster as necessary for best vision. If the fog becomes so thick that you can barely see, pull **completely** off the road. Do not continue driving until you can see better. Turn off your lights or someone may see your taillights and drive into you.

In a very heavy rain or snowstorm, you may not be able to see more than 100 feet ahead. When you can’t see any farther than that, you cannot safely drive faster than 30 mph. You may have to stop from time to time to wipe mud or snow off your windshield, headlights and taillights.

When you drive in snowy areas, carry chains in case you find yourself in conditions where you can’t drive without them. Make sure you carry the correct number of chains and that they will fit your drive wheels. Learn how to put the chains on before you need to use them.

Slow down at the first sign of rain, drizzle, or snow on the road. This is when many road pavements are most slippery because oil and dust have not been washed away.

It is wise to turn on your lights when visibility is poor—even in daylight.

Driving on Slippery Roads

When you drive on wet, icy, gravel, or dirt roads, you should:

1. Drive more slowly and stay further behind the car ahead.
2. Slow down as you approach curves and intersections.
3. Avoid quick stops. “Pump” the brakes to slow or stop.
4. Avoid fast turns.
5. Shift to low gear before going down a steep hill.
6. If brakes get wet, dry them by pressing the gas pedal and brake pedal at the same time so that the car drives against the pressure of the brakes.
7. Avoid especially slippery areas, such as ice patches, wet leaves, oil, and deep puddles.

*NOTE: Do not pump anti-lock brakes.

Driving In Wind

When it is very windy, drive slower than normal. Lighter cars, vans, and trucks with broad, high sides are sometimes blown out of their lane. House trailers are in special danger of shifting. Avoid driving next to other vehicles. Grasp the steering wheel firmly. Be prepared to correct steering as wind force changes. Keep windows closed.

Quick Stops and Skids

Avoid sudden stops. If you must stop quickly in an emergency, pumping the brakes is usually the best way. The car stops more quickly, and also lets you continue steering. To pump the brakes, you should:

- Push the brake pedal hard.
- As the car begins to skid, quickly let up on the brake. Push it down again quickly.
- Use this quick, pumping action until the car is stopped.

If the vehicle has rear wheel drive and *goes into a skid*, stop braking and turn the steering wheel into the direction of the skid.

If your vehicle has front wheel drive, steer where you want to go and accelerate to keep the vehicle moving.

NOTE: Do not pump anti-lock brakes.

Driving in Extreme Heat

- Watch the temperature gauge for overheating.
- Avoid driving at high speeds for long periods.
- Use low gear in “creeping” traffic.
- Turn off air conditioner if engine is overheating.

Hydroplaning

If water on the road is deeper than the tread of the tires, a fast moving vehicle may glide over the water and not touch the road surface. This condition is called hydroplaning. If you can see reflections on the pavement, or the car ahead leaves no tracks on the water, your car could hydroplane. To avoid hydroplaning:

- Drive slowly.
- Have good tire tread.

- Have tires properly inflated.
- If possible, steer around water.
- If you hear a slushing sound from the tires, especially when changing directions, slow down.

Driving in Extreme Cold

If you have not added antifreeze, the water in the radiator may be freezing. Your engine will overheat if this happens. After starting the engine, watch temperature gauge for signs of overheating.

Use the defroster or slightly opened windows to keep them from “fogging up.”

Tire Blowout

Teach your teenager to always keep both hands on the wheel. If a tire goes suddenly flat, you need both hands to control the car.

If you have a sudden tire blowout, you should:

1. Hold the steering wheel tightly and steer straight ahead.
2. Slow down gradually. Take your foot off the gas pedal slowly, but *don't hit the brakes*.
3. Let the car slow to a stop, completely off the road.
4. Apply the brakes when the car is almost stopped.

When You Are Stuck in Snow or Mud

1. Shift to low gear and keep the front wheels straight.
2. Gently step on the gas pedal.
3. Avoid spinning the wheels. Drive forward as far as possible.
4. Shift to reverse and slowly back up as far as possible. Don't spin the wheels.
5. Shift to low again and drive forward.
6. Repeat forward, backward motion until the car rolls free.
7. In deep mud or snow, put boards, tree branches, etc., under the tires. *Never do this when the tires are spinning.*

You may avoid getting stuck if you always carry chains in your vehicle. Put them on the tires before driving in snow or mud.

If Your Brakes Fail

You should:

1. Downshift to low gear.
2. Pump the brake pedal fast and hard to build up brake fluid pressure. You will know in three or four pumps if the brakes will work.
3. Apply the parking brake, but be ready to release it if the car begins to skid.
4. Remember you can still steer and swerve. You could steer into bushes or something soft.
5. Sound your horn and flash your lights to warn other drivers.
6. **When you no longer need to change direction and have stopped,** turn off the ignition. (Turning off the key locks the steering wheel of many vehicles.)

Stuck Accelerator

If your accelerator becomes stuck, you should:

1. Shift to neutral.
2. Apply the brakes.
3. Keep your eyes on the road.
4. Look for a way out.
5. Warn other drivers by honking and flashing your emergency lights.
6. Try to drive the car safely off the road.
7. **When you no longer need to change direction and have stopped,** turn off the ignition. (Turning off the key locks the steering wheel of many vehicles.)

SAFE DRIVER CHECKLIST

Use this checklist when your son or daughter has finished practicing all the driving skills discussed in this book. Take your student on a long “test” ride. As you ride, check your teenager’s driving against the checklist below. Be sure that your new driver is following the safe driving habits listed here. Check (✓) each item you see your youngster doing correctly. This list should tell you where your student driver still needs practice or help. Your teenager should, as a habit, do all of these things before taking the driving test at the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Starting

- ☐ 1. Adjusts mirrors.
- ☐ 2. Fastens safety belt.

Moving Forward

- ☐ 1. Signals.
- ☐ 2. Looks over shoulder before pulling into traffic.
- ☐ 3. Uses both hands on opposite sides of steering wheel.

Stopping

- ☐ 1. Stops when necessary behind crosswalk or limit line.
- ☐ 2. Uses correct foot on brake pedal.

Turns

- ☐ 1. Slows for turns.
- ☐ 2. Begins and ends turns in correct lane.
- ☐ 3. Yields right-of-way when necessary.
- ☐ 4. Accepts legal right-of-way when safe.
- ☐ 5. Sees and reacts to hazards.

Backing

- ☐ 1. Looks back over right shoulder when backing.

Changing Lanes

- ☐ 1. Signals.
- ☐ 2. Checks mirrors.
- ☐ 3. Checks over shoulder.
- ☐ 4. Changes lanes safely.

Hill Parking

- ☐ 1. Signals.
- ☐ 2. Curbs wheel properly.
- ☐ 3. Sets parking brake.
- ☐ 4. Signals and checks over shoulder before entering traffic.

Parallel Parking

- ☐ 1. Signals.
- ☐ 2. Looks over shoulder.
- ☐ 3. Yields to other vehicles when necessary.

Driving on the Freeway

- ☐ 1. Checks traffic flow.
- ☐ 2. Times entry into freeway.
- ☐ 3. Checks over shoulder as he or she accelerates into gap in traffic.
- ☐ 4. Signals early and brakes on exit ramp.
- ☐ 5. Adjusts speed to road conditions.

Defensive Driving Techniques

- ☐ 1. Checks mirrors before braking.
- ☐ 2. Checks cross streets before entering.
- ☐ 3. Checks signal lights and signs.
- ☐ 4. Keeps eyes “moving” (watches sides and middle of road).
- ☐ 5. Keeps a “space cushion” around the car.
- ☐ 6. Follows at a safe distance.